

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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SUBJ: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS (ARTS): CREATIVE SOURCE/
HELEN REDDY/ JAZZ GROUP

REF: (A) STATE 42505; (B) MOSCOW 1237; (C) MOSCOW 18870
DTD. DECEMBER 20, 1974

1. EMBASSY INFORMED GOSKONTSERT IN GENERAL ABOUT
CREATIVE SOURCE PROPOSAL TWO MONTHS AGO, SAYING THAT
VTR AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS WOULD BE COMING FOR REVIEW.
ON RECEIPT OF REFTEL (A), WHICH EXPLAINED THAT ADEQUATE
VTR WOULD BE FURTHER DELAYED, EMBASSY DISCUSSED TIMING
OF VTR WITH GOSKONTSERT OFFICIALS, WHO FEBRUARY 28 GAVE
EMBOFF FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO PROPOSED PAG BASED ON TWO AVAIL-
ABLE RECORDS AND PUBLICITY PACK.

2. GOSKONTSERT STATED THAT SOVS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE
ABLE TO RECEIVE GROUP FOR USSR TOUR THIS YEAR. GOSKONTSERT
DID SAY GROUP COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR TOUR IN 1976.

3. GOSKONTSERT SAID IT BASED DECISION ON SHORT LEAD TIME,
ON NEED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO SEE GROUP IN LIVE PERFORMANCE,
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AND ON NEED TO PREPARE PROGRAM MATERIAL TO PRESENT NEW GENRE

TO SOVIET AUDIENCES. GOSKONTSERT OFFICIALS SAID REPERTORIRE, AS PRESENTED ON RECORDS AVAILABLE, DID NOT RPT NOT APPEAL TO THEM, ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZED GROUP'S ARTISTIC MERITS.

4. EMBOFF APOLOGIZED FOR DELAY IN RECEIVING ADEQUATE PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FROM GROUP WHICH HAS BEEN BUSY WITH SOLID ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULES IN U.S. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT MATERIALS AVAILABLE DO NOT RPT NOT FORM A FIRM BASIS ON WHICH TO ASSESS GROUP AND EXPLAINED DEPARTMENT PREPARED MAKE VIDEOTAPE ON MARCH 7 AT SUNY ALBANY PERFORMAMCE. GOSKONTSERT DECLINED OFFER AND REPEATED IT WOULD CONSIDER GROUP FOR 1976, PENDING SUCCESSFUL REVIEW BY SOV REPRESENTATIVE.

5. GOSKONTSERT SAYS IT IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR THEM TO SEND SOMEONE TO SEE PERFORMANCES OF THEATER WHEN PROPOSED FOR SOVIET TOUR. AT THAT TIME THIS REPRESENTATIVE COULD ALSO ATTEND LIVE PERFORMANCES OF SEVERAL POPULAR SINGING GROUPS, INCLUDING CREATIVE SOURCE (REFTEL B, PARA 2). (DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THIS WAS GOLOVIN'S HABIT IN PAST.)

6. GOSKONTSERT DESIRES THAT US SIDE SEND THREE PAG'S IN 1975. BESIDES ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND DRAMATIC THEATER, GOSKONTSERT WILLING ACCEPT POPULAR SINGING GROUP BUT QUOTE NOT RPT NOT BEFORE JUNE. (30TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF WORLD WAR II GREATLY COMPLICATING GOSKONTSERT PLANNING AND ALL THEATERS BEING LINED UP FOR SOVIET GROUPS, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT.)

7. GOSKONTSERT OFFICIALS SAID HELEN REDDY ENSEMBLE QUOTE COULD BE INTERESTING UNQUOTE IN SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER PERIOD AND ASKED THAT RECORDS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS BE SENT. HOWEVER EMBASSY WILL HAVE ALMOST ENTIRELY NEW STAFF AND COULD NOT RPT NOT HANDLE THREE PAG'S PRESSED INTO SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER PERIOD. GOSKONTSERT FEELS IT COULD, AND DEPARTMENT/EMBASSY MIGHT CONSIDER PROPOSING REDDY GROUP FOR PURELY COMMERCIAL TOUR WITH MINIMAL USG INVOLVEMENT OR FUNDING.

8. GOSKONTSERT WOULD PREFER MAJOR PAG UNDER AGREEMENT DURING PERIOD JUNE-JULY-AUGUST AND THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO EMBASSY. ONE VIABLE ALTERNATIVE WHICH EMBASSY HAS ALREADY PROPOSED (REF C, PARA 5) IS JAZZ GROUP, SUCH AS NEW YORK JAZZ REPERTORY COMPANY, TO CELEBRATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOUIS ARMSTRONG'S BIRTH. NOT ONLY DOES EMBASSY JUDGE TIME RIPE FOR BUILDING QUALITY JAZZ PROGRAM AROUND PRACTICALLY SAINTED ARMSTRONG, BUT GOSKONTSERT HIGHLY DISPOSED TOWARD AN AMERICAN JAZZ TOUR TAKING PLACE HERE THIS SUMMER. THEY SAY A US JAZZ GROUP HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN HERE FOR SOME

TIME (SINCE THAD JONES/MEL LEWIS) AND THERE IS ENORMOUS INTEREST IN JAZZ. EMBASSY BELIEVES JAZZ IS STILL HIGHLY VITAL AS MEDIUM TO REPRESENT AN ASPECT OF AMERICAN CULTURE.

9. GOSKONTSERT IS OBVIOUSLY STILL STINGING FROM THE OSCAR PETERSON PULL-OUT AND MAY WANT TO REFURBISH ITS IMAGE WITH A TOUR BY AN EXCITING US GROUP. GOSKONTSERT GIVES EVERY INDICATION IT THINKING OF LARGE, EVEN OUTDOOR AUDIENCES FOR JAZZ GROUP. EMBASSY SPECULATES JAZZ HAS BROKEN THROUGH AND BECOME ACCEPTABLE ON LARGE SCALE AND THAT THIS IS WHY GOSKONTSERT ABLE TO ACCEPT US JAZZ GROUP WITHOUT HAVING REPRESENTATIVE ATTEND LIVE PERFORMANCE BUT ON BASIS RECORDS AND/OR REPUTATION ONLY. IDEALLY, SAYS GOSKONTSERT, GROUP COULD BE PREVIEWED BY REPRESENTATIVE MENTIONED IN PARA 4 THIS TEL.

10. IN LIGHT OF GOSKONTSERT POINTS, RECOMMEND VTR NOT RPT NOT BE SPECIALLY MADE MARCH 7. THEATER NOMINATION SHOULD BE MADE ASAP AND VISIT OF SOV REPRESENTATIVE ARRANGED SOON THEREAFTER. HE OR SHE HOPEFULLY CAN SEE CREATIVE SOURCE AND OTHER POPULAR GROUPS AT SAME TIME. DEPT VIEWS ON JAZZ REPERTORY COMPANY REQUESTED.
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